

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is included in the assessment?**

The assessment includes a multiple-choice test and a problem-based scenario. Both are standards-driven focused on occupational, employability and academic competencies. Unlike the multiple-choice test, the scenario is an open-ended question and requires students to write a 1 to 2-page answer to the problem presented. On the scenario portion of the assessment, students are given two scenarios and asked to respond to one. The scenario portion for Administrative Support Services is a performance-based scenario requiring students to complete tasks at the computer. The scenario for manufacturing is a multiple-choice scenario format.

### **How were the assessment developed? How will they be scored?**

Educators and employers developed the assessment items based on the standards. Kentucky employers endorsed standards before assessments were developed.

Both educators and employers will score the scenarios, and the multiple-choice test will be scored using student bubbled answer sheets.

### **How long does it take to complete the assessment?**

Students are given two hours. One hour for the scenario assessment and one hour for the multiple-choice.

### **How do you pass the assessment?**

Students must achieve a 70% score on each component (multiple choice and scenario) in order to receive certification. The one exception to this is with the Manufacturing assessment where the assessment has an overall score of 70% rather than a 2 part score. This is at the recommendation of business and industry partners.

### **Can students who do not achieve the certificate retake the assessment?**

Students can retake the assessment the following year. Both components (multiple choice and scenario) to the test would need to be retaken. Students may not combine scores from two separate years.

### **Can students take assessments in more than one area?**

Students who are qualified can take as many assessments as they would like. However, it is highly recommended that students assess in the area they have identified on their Individual Graduation Plan as their career major area in Career and Technical Education.

**Who can sit for the test?**

The test targets CTE concentrators. Students must be enrolled in at least their 3<sup>rd</sup> CTE credit in a career major. Therefore, we are targeting primarily juniors and seniors.

**What courses should the student have taken?**

Please see **Program of Studies** for list of courses by career major.

**Is the assessment voluntary?**

The assessment is voluntary for students to participate. However, it is mandatory for programs to participate in the assessment system. Perkins III requires the demonstration of occupational competence in each of the program areas. It is expected that career and technical education teachers will encourage qualified students to sit for the assessment. Programs receiving Perkins funding must participate in the assessment system to be recognized as a valid program and continue receiving Perkins funding.

**What assessments have implemented?**

We currently have assessments in the following 18 areas: Horticulture, Production Livestock, Production Crop, Child Development, Consumer Service, Culinary Arts, Family Services, Hospitality Services, Housing and Interiors, Allied Health, Communications, Construction, Manufacturing, Transportation, Administrative Support Services, Financial Services, Retail Service, and Marketing.

In 2003, we will pilot the assessment for Technology Education with full-scale implementation following in 2004.

**When will we receive our results?**

Program results and student certificates will be sent to the assessment coordinator for your district/site by May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**What if we participate in the assessment system this year to establish our baseline and we fail to show improvement next year?**

The assessment system is designed so that you will receive reports back on each individual participating in the assessment. We will be looking for an improvement in the percentage of students passing the assessment rather than comparing raw numbers from year to year. Keep in mind that if career majors are established according to the Program of Studies, and you are assessing students that should be assessed, the percentage of students participating in and passing the assessment should also improve. Additionally, the Division of Career and Technical Education will be looking for improvement of the eligible recipient of Perkins funding. While each program contributes to that overall percentage, we will be focusing on the improvement of the eligible recipient when considering Perkins funding.